

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/666,947

Examiner

Scott A Rogers

Applicant(s)

BRADY ET AL.

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the remarks filed 20 September 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-48.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 20 September 2004 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejections in the last Office Action are withdrawn. The drawing objection is also withdrawn.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to claims 1-48, in addition to applicants remarks regarding these claims, it is noted that the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests in the claimed combinations, using the input value as an output value if the input value is a predetermined value, and halftoning the input value otherwise.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Clouthier et al (US 5949964 A) discloses in a method for halftoning an image by first assigning a halftone type identifier to each data segment that has been identified as to type. This includes assigning a "00" halftone type identifier to any image type which

is not to be subjected to a halftone operation. The halftone type identifier "00" indicates that a bypass is to occur whereby the pixel is passed directly through halftone module 26 via bypass 36 to print engine 28. However, Clouthier et al does not do this bypass based on the input value (i.e., image segment or pixel value), but rather based on the assigned identifier.

Sakano (US 4984283 A) discloses a technique whereby an input image which has been previously subjected to halftone dotting treatment is processed by a halftone processing operation so that occurrence of moire is avoided. The input image, nor any part thereof, is directly output.

Sekizawa et al (US 4926251 A) discloses a technique whereby when an original image is a screen-tone image, and in particular, when it is a screen-tone image whose screen-tone period is approximate to a dither period, a read image signal is passed through a low-pass filter for removing dither periodic components to prevent generation of moire noise caused by dither processing. The original image, nor any part thereof, is directly output.

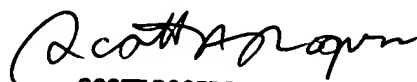
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott A Rogers whose telephone number is 703-305-4726. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday & Wednesday 6:00am-6:00pm and Tuesday & Thursday 6:00am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on 305-4863.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Customer Service at 703-306-0377. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

23 January 2005